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### **Ktm Cycle Rally: Ride With Pride**

Kathmandu Cycle City 2020 organized a cycle rally on 21 November. World cyclist Pushkar Shah, who is also their ambassador, initiated the rally at 8 AM from the JYC ground in Jawalakhel routing via Pulchowk, Maitighar Mandala, New Baneshwor, Singadurbar and ended the rally at 9.30 AM in Basantapur. About 500 students, cyclists and other cycle users had participated. The organization aims to make Kathmandu a cycle friendly city by 2020.



Source: <http://www.wavemaq.com.np/issue/article3325.html>

## SUMA Outreach Program Held

Kathmandu, Nov 24, 2009

Government representatives and other stakeholders convened today at Kathmandu to discuss sustainable mode of urban mobility in Kathmandu in a program organized by Clean Air Network Nepal and Clean Energy Nepal.



The program was organized to share the findings from Delhi SUMA Summit 2009 in support of Clean Air Initiatives for Asian Cities (CAI- Asia). SUMA Workshop was a half-day event that aimed to generate an integrated air quality policy at a national level that will improve urban air quality and strengthen sustainable transport activities in Nepal. The discussion on the program strongly showed the need of Coordination among the different Government institutions and other relevant partners working in Environmentally Sustainable Transport and Urban Mobility as a whole. Speaking at the program, Mr. Kamal Pandey, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Physical Planning and Works emphasized that an integrated, coordinated and immediate planning and action is required to maintain the essence of Kathmandu which it beholds. Saroj Kumar Pradhan, Senior Division Engineer from the Department of Roads added that traffic management should be prioritized for everyone. A strategic planning should be pursued to come up with a unified vision to achieve sustainable urban transport in Nepal.

## Lets Walk for Clean Blue Sky in Kathmandu

*By Charina Cabrido*

In most developing countries, a large number of citizens walk as their daily social, recreational and livelihood activities. Every trip begins and ends with a walking trip. Nearly all trips made by people entail some walking either directly to a destination or to another mode of transport.

In Kathmandu, a large section of population prefers to walk. This was very evident when I first visited the Kathmandu Durbar Square, the week I first arrived in Nepal. With the intricate designs of its temples, this landmark has consistently attracted tourists from all parts of the world. In all my walks, I was constantly looking for a Filipino amongst the crowd, hoping that a familiar face would make me feel at home.





Walking in Kathmandu is a skill on its own. A narrow road is used for multiple purposes – vendors encroaching the footpaths, motorcycles and bicycles using the same street at the same time and rickshaws picking up tourists at the middle of the road. There are no clear signs to guide you where and when to cross safely to the other side. Everyday seems like a battle on who is the rightful owner of the road. I learned that in order to survive, I always have to set my guard high as a way to protect myself. Otherwise, I can be part of the 40

percent of pedestrian fatalities and injuries derived from unsafe pedestrian environment in Kathmandu (KVMP, 2001).

Beyond the complexity of the pedestrian environment in Kathmandu, there is also the issue on air pollution. Particulate matters in forms of dust and vehicle emissions are high. You just need to stand at the center of Basantapur and inhale a deep breath to prove that this is true. In fact, during my first week here, I already developed dust allergy, a condition that I never had for more than 20 years. This is quite alarming especially for people who have to stay and live in this country for years.

As a first step towards helping and encouraging cities such as Kathmandu to improve their pedestrian facilities, the Asian Development Bank in coordination with the Clean Air Initiatives for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) is developing a 'Walkability Index'. The index project is quite simple. Asian cities are ranked based on field surveys, pedestrian interviews and government surveys that will examine the safety and security, convenience and policy support towards efficient and safe pedestrian facilities. A single rank index is useful in encouraging the low-ranking cities to take actions and improve on its overall walking conditions. Aside from this, the gathered data will generate a countermeasure guidebook that will show city leaders what immediate and long term steps maybe taken to improve their index ranking. The documented data will be very useful in recommending further analyses such as spatial mapping of high risk areas or case studies. The end goal of the project is to promote walking as a sustainable urban transport.

This Walkability Index project will be implemented in Kathmandu next year by the Clean Energy Nepal (CEN). It has been a month now since I arrived in Nepal and I feel that I have learned a lot about the city's walking conditions based from what I see and I encountered. This has given me more conviction that I can help make this place better for everyone. It may not be the ultimate solution, but i always believed that together, we can create small ripples to produce the waves. As a way forward, my CEN family together with the volunteers that we work with will continuously lobby with the government officials for an improved planning and investment in pedestrian infrastructure. So joint efforts needs to create

awareness amongst the general public to make Kathmandu's pedestrian facilities safer and accessible to everyone.

Source: <http://www.nepalnews.com/main/index.php/component/content/article/13-top-column/2670-lets-walk-for-clean-blue-sky-in-kathmandu.html>

## 'Stop Melting Life' campaign begins

POST REPORT KATHMANDU, NOV. 28

To create awareness of the impact of climate change on the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the country, the Climate Change Network Nepal (CCNN) and Nepalese Youth for Climate Action (NYCA) organized a program on Saturday, to reveal how the glacier melt in the Himalayas would impact billions of people living in the region. The campaign, which had the slogan 'Stop Melting Life, Save the Himalayas', kicked off in Basantapur, where hundreds of youth representatives wrote individual messages to three major leaders – Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, US President Barack Obama, and Danish Prime Minister Lars Rasmussen – to draw attention on the issue during the Copenhagen Climate Summit in Denmark which has been scheduled for Dec. 7-18.



Basanta Abiral, a NYCA member stated, "The best messages written to the leaders will be presented at a meeting during the Copenhagen summit and will draw attention to the burning issue of glacial lake outbursts floods (GLOFs) that are caused by glacial melting. The world leaders are gathering at Copenhagen for CoP 15, the most awaited global gathering on climate change, to reach a global consensus to halt climate change. Experts have stated that world leaders must reach a deal which puts the poorest and most vulnerable communities at its centre.

Around 40 youths from Nepal are taking part in the Copenhagen Summit, where they will meet with different world leaders and raise their voice on climate change impacts visible in their country and region. "The campaign is intended to raise the profile of an issue affecting our country and take the voices of some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations to a global platform with the aim of achieving a sustainable deal which benefits poor countries." said the organisers. Himalayan glaciers in the country are melting rapidly due to global warming and climate change. According to researchers, the potent outburst of the Imja Lake, which is located in the Everest region, is posing imminent dangers to the way of life and the existence of mountain communities in the Khumbu region. The average

annual size increase of the Imja Lake is found to be around 74 meters, the scientific research further states.

Source: *The Kathmandu Post*, Nov 29

**Clean Air News is a free e-mail publication that features news, information and events related to clean air. Clean Air News is published by Clean Air Network Nepal to highlight the activities and initiatives for clean air by CANN and its members or partners. For more information on our campaign, please visit [www.cen.org.np/cann](http://www.cen.org.np/cann) and [www.cleanairnet.org/cann](http://www.cleanairnet.org/cann)**

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Clean Air Network Nepal (CANN) is a network of organizations and professionals involved in air quality management in Nepal. The goal of CANN is to increase the ability of professionals and other interested stakeholders to effectively address the problems of air pollution in Nepal. We encourage you to join hands with us to expand our campaign for clean and better Air.

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